ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

To provide an image compression coding apparatus and method capable of minimizing a deterioration in picture quality which is caused on a reproduced image during an overflow of an output buffer. A picture top detector (7A) executes a picture top detection processing for discarding image compression data (S2) until a top of a picture of the image compression data (S2) is detected during detection of a start address, and restarts a normal operation after detecting the top of the picture. A processor (5) brings a detection start register (8) into a set state and causes the picture top detector (7A) to execute the picture top detection processing during an overflow of an output buffer (3a), and executes an interruption processing of rewriting, as a value of a write address register (9), an address where a top of an overflow picture to be a picture causing the overflow is stored.